

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: ECOSOC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: OPENING STATEMENT

BY PRESIDENT AKE (IVORY COAST)

1. SUMMARY. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT ON JANUARY 13 SKE STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONCRETE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND THE NECESSITY TO GIVE PRIORITY TO RESTRICTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN. AKE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WILL BE DECISIVE, FAIR, AND FIRM IN EXECUTING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY

2. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, THE NEW ECOSOC PRESIDENT, SIMEON AKE (IVORY COAST) NOTED THAT THE PROPER ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF ECOSOC REMAINED TO BE DEFINED AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF RESTRUCTURING THE ECONOMIC ANDSOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN. REFORM OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD MAKE IT ONCE AGAIN A CENTRAL ORGAN FOR FORMULATING AND COORDINATING POLICIES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS. AKE ALSO STRESSED THAT THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT WAS STILL A PRIME CONCERN AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIONS OF THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION CONCERNING THE

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NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) AND THE CHARTER

OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS). HE NOTED THAT THESE MEASURES MUST BE FOLLOWED BY CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND, IN THAT REGARD, THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION HAD DEMONSTRATED, IN RES 3362, THAT THERE WAS A POLITICAL WILL ON THE PART OF MEMBER STATES TO IMPLEMENT THESE MEASURES BY MEANS OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS.

3. IN COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL CONDUCT THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL, AKE NOTED THAT HE HAS BEEN IMPRESSED IN HIS THREE YEARS IN THE COUNCIL WITH THE SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE AND CONCILIATION AND HE INTENDED TO CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS, WHENEVER NECESSARY TO REACH DECISIONS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. AKE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT MEMBERS SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID MAKING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE REPETITIOUS OR UNRELATED TO THE QUESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. COMMENT: AKE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AT A LATER MEETING TO DEMONSTRATE HIS FIRM CONTROL AND RESOLVE TO ELIMINATE EXTRANEIOUS STATEMENTS, WHEN HE INTERRUPTED THE REP FROM GDR AFTER THE FIRST TEN MINUTES OF WHAT THREATENED TO BE A MUCH LONGER ORDEAL AND ADVISED HIM TO BRING HIS REMARKS TO A CONCLUSION AS THEY WERE NOT RELATED TO THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION.
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